

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/626,696

Examiner

Stanley J. Pruchnic, Jr.

Applicant(s)

READER ET AL.

Art Unit

2859

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 5 August 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 15-41.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 25 July 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with **John Kasha** on **7 September 2004**.

2. The application has been amended as follows in order to more clearly describe the invention:

In the Claims:

- a. In Claim 15, in Line 4, after the phrase "**including an autosampler tray**", the phrase **--on which said pan is placed--** has been inserted in order to more clearly describe the invention.
- b. In Claim 15, in Line 6, the word "**top**" has been deleted before "**cover**" in order to provide antecedent basis and use consistent terminology, because in line 3, the cover of the sealed sample pan is introduced as being a "flat cover".
- c. In Claim 15, in Line 8, after the phrase "**the rapid change of an applied force**", the phrase **--applied by the punch to the cover--** has been inserted in order to more clearly describe the invention.
- d. In Claim 20, in Line 3, the word "**top**" has been deleted before "**cover**".
- e. In Claim 21, in Line 3, the word "**top**" has been deleted before "**cover**".

- f. In Claim 40, in Line 9, the word **--autosampler--** has been inserted before the phrase **"electronic control unit"**.
- g. In Claim 40, in Line 10, before the word **"housing"**, the word **"a"** has been deleted and the phrase **--an autosampler--** has been inserted therefor.
- h. In Claim 40, in Line 13, the word **"top"** has been deleted before **"cover"**.
- i. In Claim 40, in Line 15, after the phrase **"the rapid change of an applied force"**, the phrase **--applied by the punch to the cover--** has been inserted in order to more clearly describe the invention.
- j. In Claim 41, in Line 4, before the phrase **"electronic control unit"**, the word **"an"** has been deleted and the phrase **-- a thermogravimetrical analyzer--** has been inserted therefor.
- k. In Claim 41, in Line 5, the phrase **--thermogravimetrical analyzer--** has been inserted before the phrase **"user interface"**.
- l. In Claim 41, in Line 6, the phrase **--thermogravimetrical analyzer--** has been inserted before the phrase **"cabinet"**.
- m. In Claim 41, in Line 8, after the phrase **"including an autosampler tray"**, the phrase **--on which said pan is placed--** has been inserted in order to more clearly describe the invention.
- n. In Claim 41, in Line 10, the word **"top"** has been deleted before **"cover"**.
- o. In Claim 41, in Line 12, after the phrase **"the rapid change of an applied force"**, the phrase **--applied by the punch to the cover--** has been inserted in order to more clearly describe the invention.

Conclusion

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Stanley J. Pruchnic, Jr., whose telephone number is **(571) 272-2248**. The examiner can normally be reached on weekdays (Monday through Friday) from 7:30 AM to 4:00 PM. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Diego F. F. Gutierrez can be reached at **(571) 272-2245**.

The **Official FAX** number for Technology Center 2800 is **(703) 872-9306** for **all official communications**.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding may be directed to the official USPTO website at **<http://www.uspto.gov/>** or you may call the **USPTO Call Center** at **800-786-9199** or 703-308-4357. The Technology Center 2800 Customer Service FAX phone number is (703) 872-9317.

The cited U.S. patents and patent application publications are available for download via the Office's PAIR. As an alternate source, all U.S. patents and patent application publications are available on the USPTO web site (www.uspto.gov), from the Office of Public Records and from commercial sources.

Private PAIR provides external customers Internet-based access to patent application status and history information as well as the ability to view the scanned images of each customer's own application file folder(s).

For inquiries relating to Patent e-business products and service applications, you may call the **Patent Electronic Business Center (EBC)** at **703-305-3028** or toll free at **866-217-9197** between the hours of **6 a.m. and midnight Monday through Friday EST**, or by e-mail at: **ebc@uspto.gov**. Additional information is available on the Patent EBC Web site at: **<http://www.uspto.gov/ebc/index.html>**.



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SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800**



Stanley J. Pruchnic, Jr.
9/7/04